

James Elbert Raines, a former New Britain police officer and Vietnam veteran, died suddenly Friday at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford. He was 56. Raines, of Bloomfield, was working for Burns International Security at the time of his death and was a member of the Pride of Connecticut Lodge of Elks in New Britain and the NAACP.

Raines was a sergeant when he resigned in 1988, ending a 20-year career that began shortly after the U.S. Marine Corps veteran finished his service in Vietnam. A Hartford native, Raines was the husband of Mirna Walker Raines and son of Elbert and the late Bertha Lee Smith Raines of Hartford. In addition to his wife and father, he is survived by three daughters, Patrice Raines-Oates of Plainville, Jeannine Holmes of Bristol and Faith Palmer of Bloomfield; a brother, Herbert Raines of Southington; four sisters, Grace Raines of New Britain, Linda Battle of Plainville, Rita Raines of Texas and Deloris Carr of San Francisco, Calif.. a granddaughter and several nieces. Burial with military honors will be Wednesday in Fairview Cemetery, New Britain, after a 10 a.m. service in McCullough Temple A.M.E. Church on Chapman Street. Friends may call today, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Porter's Funeral Home, 111 Chamberlain Highway, Kensington.

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